



Cornell University Cooperative Extension

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Capital Area Ag Report

April 7, 2023

Calendar

Tuesday May 9, 2023 6 pm—8 pm—Spring Turn Out Grazier Meeting—details forthcoming.

April 19th and 20th from 6:00pm – 7:30pm. [Beef x Dairy online webinar series.](#) Registration is free and open to all.

FYI

Did you miss any of the **Maximizing Fertilizer Efficiency with Peak Fertilizer Prices** webinar series? Recordings from each of the six presentations are now available on the [Field Crops web-site!](#)

Go to our blog for the recording and presentations of [Exploiting the Vulnerabilities of Weeds.](#)

Go to our blog for the recording and presentations of the [9th Annual Hudson Valley Value-Added Grain School.](#)

NY Farm Labor in Transition Survey: Farm Employer Input Needed!

New York farm employers are navigating enormous changes in farm labor markets and regulations in recent years. It is critical for farm managers and decision-makers to have accurate and up-to-date information about the farm workforce. The [NY Farm Labor in Transition Survey](#) collects farm managers' perspectives on these important issues. Please take about 20-30 minutes of your time to include your response as a NY farm employer. All data will be kept confidential, results will only be reported as group data, and no personally identifiable data will be reported. Respondents will receive a summary of the results. Most of the survey can be completed with information that you have in

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mind, but please be prepared by assembling the following data from your payroll records:

1. The number of full-time, part-time, seasonal, and H-2A positions you employed in 2021 and 2022.
2. Total **regular** hours worked by all of your hired employees in 2021 and 2022.
3. Total **overtime** hours worked by all of your hired employees in 2021 and 2022.
4. Number of positions filled by owners and unpaid family members, and hours worked by them, in 2021 and 2022.

Number of employees who left voluntarily or were fired in 2021 and 2022.

Access the survey here: [NY Farm Labor in Transition Survey](https://www.nyfarmlabor.com/), or type in this site: agworkforce.cals.cornell.edu.

Agronomy Notes—Aaron Gabriel

What do you do with a week of dry weather in early April???

(this is assuming the ground will properly support machinery & operations)

- Plant spring grains. Early planting is one key to success.
- Plant hay seedings (cool-season species ie. alfalfa, clovers, trefoil, timothy, bromegrass, fescues, ryegrasses, reed canarygrass)
- Control winter annuals if they are excessive (chickweed, pennycress, shepherd's purse)
- Inter-seed forage grasses and legumes into "thin" hay fields and pastures
- Plant early spring cover cover crops
- Apply nitrogen to grasses and grains. However, apply before a one-fourth inch rain (minimum, 1/2" is best) and use a urease-inhibitor. The urease-inhibitor will ***slow down*** the lost of nitrogen, but ***not stop it***. So, only topdress nitrogen before a rain (even in the early spring) to wash it into the soil.
- Check tile drain outlets for proper functioning (still in place, clear not cloudy water coming out). This should actually be done in March and after it rains.
- **If you do your own spraying, be sure to check the water you use for hardness and pH. I have extra test strips for both. Contact me and I will mail some to you or deliver them (Aaron, 518-380-496).**

Winter Annuals—I was curious to see if 2,4-D herbicide would be active very early in the season on winter annuals, while temperatures were still in the 40's. So, I sprayed some pennycress in my garden on March 28. The temperature that day was 45°F and sunny. A few rainy days followed. After a week, I could see the pennycress declining in health while the un-sprayed plants looked healthy. I took follow up pictures on April 7, which you can see below. So, it seems to me, that as long as the plants are actively growing, even in cool spring temperatures, 2,4-D will work.

**Un-sprayed healthy pennycress
on April 7**



**Pennycress sprayed on March 28th,
picture on April 7**



Winter Grains—Check winter grains for winter survival. I was in one barley field that had heaving of plants (most notably where the seed did not get planted at the usual 1” to 1 1/2” deep). Geese were also in the field and had pulled up plants. Also count tillers per plant. For wheat, five tillers that developed last fall is ideal. For nitrogen recommendations on winter wheat, see the factsheet [“Early Wheat Management Tips”](#), by Mike Stanyard, CCE,

Frost heaving and geese damaged these winter barley plants. They will not survive.



The seeds of these plants did not get to the proper depth while planting.



Check winter wheat fields for survival and heaving so that you have time to implement “Plant B”.

Seedcorn Maggot— There is a lot of research being conducted in New York on the seedcorn maggot. We have already been catching adults beginning the last week of March. Seed applied insecticide is not always effective for this pest of corn and soybeans. However, management is not complicated. The adult fly searches out areas of high organic matter to lay its eggs. Fields with manure, crop residues, and that were previously sod are favorite sites for egg laying. Typically fields planted in late April and early May are most at risk. If the soil is warm, more than 50°F and the seeds germinate in a few days, they will outgrow any damage. However, if you plant in cold soils and the seeds do not emerge within a week or so, plants are more susceptible to damage and plant populations will be reduced. Simply, plant in warm soils and avoid high organic matter fields early in the season. Find more information at <https://extension.umn.edu/soybean-pest-management/seedcorn-maggot>.

Field crop production guidelines can be found at [FieldCrops.org](https://www.fieldcrops.org).

The 2023 Cornell Guide to Integrated Field Crop Management can be purchased at the [Cornell Store](#).



**Malting barleys
available as of
Spring 2023**



<p>Lightning</p>	<p>2 row / Winter There will be a \$0.06/lb research assessment on Lightning</p>	<p>It was bred for fall planting and is well adapted to the New York State. Because it does not require vernalization for a timely vegetative to reproductive transition, Lightning can be planted in the spring and will flower and mature in a similar time frame as spring growth habit cultivars.</p>	<p>It has broad-spectrum disease resistance (moderate to high resistance to scald, stripe rust, powdery mildew, net blotch, and Fusarium head blight)</p>
<p>Excelsior Gold CU-31 Limited</p>	<p>2 row / Spring There will be a \$0.06/lb research assessment on Excelsior Gold</p>	<p>Excelsior Gold was developed by Cornell University to combat challenges farmers face when growing spring malting barley – disease and pre-sprout susceptibility – while maintaining desirable malting characteristics.</p>	<p>High resistance to spot blotch and is moderately resistant to Fusarium head blight.</p>
<p>Hudson NY CU-198 Very limited</p>	<p>2 row / Spring There will be a \$0.06/lb research assessment on Hudson NY</p>	<p>This is a two-row spring malting barley derived from a cross between AAC Synergy and KWS Tinka. In three years of testing, it has averaged 63 bu/a, 3 bu/a lower grain yield than AAC Synergy, 1 bu/a higher than Newdale, and 7 bu/a higher than ND Genesis.</p>	<p>Resistance to spot blotch is moderate and over two years this line showed moderate susceptibility to Fusarium head blight</p>

New York Seed Improvement Project
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